

Drawings Objection

Fig. 1 of the drawings stands objected to. In particular, the Examiner requires the labeling of the box indicated by reference numeral 6. The Amendment includes a Drawing Correction Authorization Request (DCAR) that encloses a marked up copy of the objected to figure. Specifically, the DCAR includes a corrected version of Fig. 1 that shows in red-ink the proper labeling for the box indicated by reference numeral 6.

In view of the submission of the DCAR, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's drawings objection has been overcome. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate, in response hereto, approval of the enclosed DCAR.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of this Amendment, Applicants have carefully amended each of the pending claims. Regarding independent claim 5, the claim language therein now reads as "at least one predefined threshold value of the actual values of the drive-specific switching parameters is attained, the output quantity being a coil current, the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation and including at least one of a contact speed, a contact

path and a flux.” Applicants respectfully submit that the language of amended independent claim 5 clearly sets forth that the control device does not affect an output quantity for controlling the coil until a specific one of the plurality of drive-specific switching parameters is attained. With regard to the amendment of independent claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment was made in order to respond to the Examiner’s indication that the claim was indefinite. The amendment to independent claim 5 should therefore not be construed as limiting in nature. Regarding dependent claims 6 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to these claims clearly conform them with the requirements set forth under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heider (U.S. Patent 4,429,342). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patented Heider device relates specifically to a plunger-type armature magnet system for driving a print hammer in a impact printing device or a mosaic printer. An embodiment according to the patented device is shown in Fig. 5 of the relied upon patent. As is seen in the figure, an armature 4 includes a position sensing means 12 that is a photoelectric switch having a

light beam. The light beam is designed to be interrupted by a guide portion 6 of the armature 4. According to Heider, as the armature 4 is in a return stroke, it interrupts the beam of the position sensor 12 at a time T4. This causes a deceleration pulse t to be generated by a circuit shown in Fig. 6 of the relied upon patent. The delayed deceleration pulse t controls the amount of voltage applied to the armature 4. Clearly, armature control according to Heider is specifically related to time change.

In contradistinction, independent claim 4 sets forth a combination of novel limitations including “a control device of a switchgear drive, the control device being one of an open-loop control device and a closed-loop control device, wherein after a switching command, the control device does not affect an output quantity for controlling the coil until at least one predefined threshold value of the actual values of the drive-specific switching parameters is attained, the output quantity being a coil current, the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation and including at least one of a contact speed, a contact path and a flux.” Accordingly, it is clear, because Heider uses time to control the plunger-type magnet system, the relied upon patent fails to teach or suggest the novel limitations of the rejected independent claim. In addition, the device according to Heider fails to teach or suggest such a “control device of a switchgear drive,” as set forth in the independent claim of the instant application. Regarding the other rejected claims, Applicants respectfully submit

that Heider fails to teach or suggest the novel limitations of those claims dependent upon the indicated independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 USC § 102(b).

In accordance with the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the instant application clearly define the present invention over the patent relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

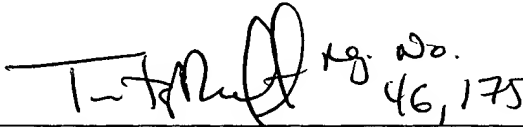
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Mr. Tim Wyckoff, Registration No. 46,175 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked Up Version of Claim Amendments

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) A solenoid system for switchgear, comprising:

an armature;

a yoke;

a coil interacting with the yoke to move the armature;

sensors detecting actual values of drive-specific switching parameters;

and

a control device of a switchgear drive, the control device being one of an open-loop control device and a closed-loop control device, wherein after a switching command, the control device does not affect an output quantity for controlling the coil until at least one predefined threshold value of the actual values of the drive-specific switching parameters is attained, the output quantity being a coil current, the drive-specific switching parameters being variable during a switching operation and including at least one of a contact speed, a contact path and a flux.

6. (Amended) The solenoid system according to claim [4] 5, wherein after the switching command, the control device does not affect the output quantity until [at least at least one predefined value] the contact speed of the drive-

specific switching parameters is attained[, the switching parameters including the contact speed].

7. (Amended) The solenoid system according to claim [4] 5, wherein the at least one predefined threshold value is settable.